NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
August 14, 1998

Divots, injuries cannot stop Museum softballers

Final score 22-15 in third game of regular season play

The Dead Animal Zoo, captained by **Marietto Jeffries** (Budget) slugged its way to an early lead in Tuesday's softball game, played on the divot-scarred, undulating ground of Arvey Field. The DAZ eventually turned in a 22-15 victory in five (or maybe it was six) innings of semi-regulation play.

By contrast, the Dead Animal Zoo steadily lost ground after an early lead made them the game favorites. So-called "Happy Team" captain **April Blazevic** (Exhibits) didn't seem to mind the trailing position, however. Her irrepressible pitching and exuberant coaching kept the DAZ from losing heart.

Sluggers for the winning DAZ team hit a continuous series of stand-up doubles, a real chore for outfielders, who had to chase the ball down the hill to keep it from rolling through the Museum Campus underpass.

Two players were on the injured reserves for Tuesday's blowout: **Janet Voight** (Zoology), who helped with fielding practice early in the evening; and this reporter, who limped onto the field as permanent catcher and scorekeeper.

Other players were **Mark Schmeltzer** (Campaign); **Charles James** (Engineering); **Peter DeRiemer** and **Eric Lindveit** (Exhibits), who went over early to play a few rounds of golf—not that they would make any divots; **Kathleen Donofrio** (Education); **Jennifer Hutchinson** (Housekeeping); **Andrew Faison** (Visitor Services); and **Janice Klein** and **Elisa Aguilar** (Anthropology), joined by Elisa's husband Chris Kutza and son Austin, a powerhouse hitter and base runner. A former DAZ player and coach, Gene Dillenburg, traded last season to the Fish Heads, rounded out the roster.

Regular season play continues next Tuesday at 5:45 p.m. Why don't the other 485 of you on Museum staff (not to mention our 600 volunteers) come out and see what you're missing?

Submitted by **Rodger Patience**

FIELD NOTES

Week of August 17

Public Events/Special Events

Music Theater Workshop
• 12:30 to 4 p.m. each day

Church of Christ events in JST
• 6 to 10 p.m. each day

Women in Development Professions
Lecture Hall 2
• Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Women's Board Overnight
• Tuesday evening

Summer Lecture Series, LH2
• 4 p.m. Wednesday

Downtown Thursday Nights
• Museum open 5 to 8 p.m.

Bears Exhibition Season Opener
• Friday at 7 p.m.
No Soldier Field Parking all day

Neighbors Day
• Saturday

Chicago Air & Water Show
• Saturday and Sunday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Aerobics Class, 5 p.m.
• Tuesday and Thursday in LH2

Softball Game
• Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.
Arvey Field

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Intern uncovers sensational find in insect collections

There was great excitement in The Field Museum's Insect Division last week when **Roman Yukelivich**, undergraduate summer intern on **Petra Sierwald**'s Millipede Grant, discovered the fourth and fifth known specimens of the millipede order Siphoniulida. The order was described in 1894 based on a single specimen from Sumatra. Two female specimens were found by Richard Hoffman (a collaborator in the Millipede Grant) in 1979 in soil samples from Tikal, Guatemala. No other specimens ever turned up, despite intensive searches. The two newly found specimens were sorted by Roman from Mexican bulk samples in the Insect Collections. Dr. Rowland Shelley, a millipede specialist from the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History, was visiting last week and he and Petra confirmed Roman's identification. The systematic position of the order Siphoniulida is unknown and males are needed for future research. There is a very good chance that more material of this rare group will be found in the bulk sample collection when sorting and identification of specimens continues.

Cap, Klein collaborate on core curriculum course at Campbell

Earlier this week **Cap Sease**, Head Conservator, and **Janice Klein**, Registrar (Anthropology) once again joined the team teaching the Archaeological and Ethnographic Core Curriculum at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies in Mount Carroll, IL. Each year Cap teaches three days on object materials and treatment and Janice teaches a day on documentation, including collections management procedures, Fish and Wildlife regulations and Cultural Property legislation.

Paleontology fieldwork in the Middle Triassic of Nevada yields ichthyosaurs, exercise

Olivier Rieppel has returned from three weeks of fieldwork in the marine Middle Triassic (250 myo) deposits of the Augusta Mountains in northwestern Nevada. He was accompanied on this trip, which was financed by the National Geographic Society, by **Jim Holstein** from the Geology Department and by Martin Sander from the University of Bonn, Germany. During the Middle Triassic, northwestern Nevada was covered by a shallow sea caught between the American continent to the east, and an island arc known as Sonoma to the west. In 1993 Martin and Olivier discovered a sauropterygian reptile there, now described under the name of Augustasaurus. It represents the second known sauropterygian from the Triassic of the New World, and as such represents an extremely important find for the reconstruction of the phylogeny and paleobiogeography of the primitive Sauropterygia. The return to the area was motivated by hopes of finding more sauropterygians. Although sauropterygian reptiles remained elusive, Jim, Martin and Olivier got a serious daily workout running up and down the mountains, and their efforts were rewarded by the location of several ichthyosaur skeletons.

Division of Amphibians and Reptiles receives National Science Foundation grant

The Division of Amphibians and Reptiles is pleased to announce that it has received official notification that the NSF grant proposal entitled "Support to Verify the Computer Database of the Herpetological Collections of the Field Museum" has been funded. The award is for $116,738 and covers a two-year period. This award will allow for the completion of the first

phase of a two-phase project to verify and edit the collection database and to inventory the entire amphibian and reptile collection. Congratulations to Curator **Harold Voris** and Collections Manager **Alan Resetar**, who were co-Principal Investigators on the Proposal along with former Assistant Curator **Anna Graybeal**.

Asian ceramic conference receives ACC grant

Continuing their support of The Field Museum/Asian Ceramic Research Organization (ACRO) biennial Asian ceramics conferences, the Asian Cultural Council in New York has again granted the conference funds to bring speakers from The People's Republic of China and Vietnam to Chicago. OUYANG Shibin of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute will deliver a paper on 15th century ceramics produced by private Chinese kilns, and TRINH CAO Tuong of the Hanoi based Institute of Archeology will speak on newly emerging knowledge of 15th century ceramics produced in his country. The other 18 speakers of the conference come from Thailand, Korea, New Zealand, France, Japan, Taiwan, and the United States.

Interest in the conference theme "Asian Ceramica, Resolving the Enigmas of the 15th Century Gap" is lively, with registrations coming from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and the Philippines as well as from professionals and collectors across the United States.

The conference, running from Friday, October 23 through Sunday, October 25, is responding to interest by Field Museum staffers and volunteers by offering registration at the reduced price of $20 for the three day meeting (paper presentations only). Students also can register at this special price.

The Asian Anthropology department wishes to thank **Stacey Rhoads** and **Chuck Holland** in making Collections Committee and Founders Council members aware of opportunities presented by the conference. In addition, the cooperation of **Paula Robinson** of the Finance department has made possible the welcome convenience of credit card registration. The assistance of **Lori Breslauer** of the Office of Academic Affairs in putting the conference on a web site (www.fmnh.org/candr/anthro_sites/acro) is highly appreciated. **Alice Yao**, **Jack Chiu** and **Jeremy Herrick** of the Anthropology Department are responsible for preparing the web site materials. We thank them for their efforts.

As an added attraction, Paragon Galleries is hosting a reception at its South Michigan Avenue gallery late Saturday afternoon, October 24. Late publications and hard to find books on things Asian will be on display.

For registration please contact **Bennet Bronson** in the Anthropology Department (ext. 832) or e-mail ho@fmppr.fmnh.org.

Submitted by the Anthropology Department

McDonald's to be closed for renovation

McDonald's will be closed beginning Monday, August 24 through Wednesday, September 30 for renovation. Improvements will include, new décor, kitchen upgrades, and Dining Room E will become Ronald's Cave, to include additional seating. McDonald's will reopen to visitors on Thursday, October 1.

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**

FINANCE FORUM

Welcome to the Finance Forum, a weekly column devoted to items of interest from the Finance Department.

Notice of new procedure

All local messenger delivery will be handled by *Chicago Messenger Service.* A revised procedure for use of the messenger service is being sent to all department representatives; if you have not been apprised please call **Jasen Schrock**, our department representative, at ext. 438. *Chicago Messenger Service* has an overnight service as well, so for delivery of local packages, don't use Federal Express, which requires that the package be airborne before delivery. And remember to provide the courier with your department number when placing the order, or it will not be accepted.

$ $ $ $

Our new weekday cashier is **Michael Jones**, and he is accessible Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. to cash checks and to sell parking tickets and stamps. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Mike.

Museum Stores Update

The museum stores had a record-breaking July! The new main store outperformed last year's sales by 261% over last year's sales in July. Total Museum Store sales increased 91% over last year sales in July. Best of all, store per caps have increased from $1.33 in 1997 to $2.58 in July.

A big thanks to all of the departments who assisted in the new store construction, as well as the daily support you provide.

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**, Director of Auxiliary Services

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Field Museum going to the state fair

No, don't be looking for a Field Museum booth at the state fair this year. Instead, look for the Lieutenant Governor's booth that will electronically bring the Field Museum and the Shedd Aquarium to the fair. Building on their success with the Shedd last year, the Lieutenant Governor's Office has asked the Museum to take part in the ten-day event using cameras and new technology to bring the **McDonald's Fossil Preparation Lab** live to fair visitors downstate.

Supported by Ameritech, the Museum will go live for approximately two and one-half hours each day. The Education Department will fill most of that time by doing presentations and then following up with an interactive question-and-answer segment. The two-way audio/video communications will represent another use of the ever-growing distance learning technologies and the numerous opportunities here at the museum.

So, either at the fair or here at home base, be sure to stop by and spend some time with us.

Submitted by **Peter H. Laraba**

SECURITY NOTES

New Shipping Dock Hours

Effective immediately, the Shipping Dock will be open from **5:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.** every day, to accommodate an increased schedule of early deliveries and late usage.

Stairwell #2 Emergency Exit

Emergency Exit 2, which opens onto the newly renovated northeast terrace now set up for Corner Bakery patrons, is not to be used to access the terrace. Until further notice, it remains an emergency exit only. It will remain locked and the alarms will remain on. Please help keep this door closed. There have recently been a number of instances when staff have exited through this door to go to the terrace, and the door has remained ajar, allowing free access to the building.

If you have any questions, contact Ron Cundiff, manager of Security, at extension 856.

Farewell to Ray Van Hook

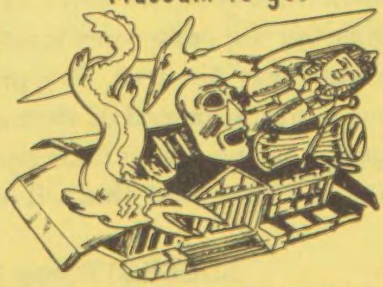
The Security staff will be bidding farewell to Ray Van Hook, Safety Officer, on August 21. Ray is leaving to become Security and Safety Director at the Terra Museum of North American Art. Ray has been a valuable and key member of the Security staff and he will be missed. We wish him well.

Field Museum Staff!

Get involved with public education!

IT'S EASY!

Museum to go!



Harris Educational Loan Program

Serving Chicago-area educators since 1911

If you have kids in school, know a teacher or educator, or just want to help out a school near where you live—you can be the conduit to get Harris loan materials out to the public! Help out busy educators by picking things up on your way home, then drop them off at a school, and return them to Harris. More than a dozen Museum staff members already borrow Harris materials for use at home, for their childrens' classrooms, or just to hand off to a neighborhood teacher they know—and you can too! Just take a catalog to a teacher (or have them look at our web site at http://www.fmnh.org/education/Harris_Loan) and have them request the materials they want you to pick up and deliver from Harris Loan!

The Harris Center loans a wide variety of educational materials to Chicago-area public and private institutions such as schools, day-care centers, libraries, nature centers, and groups such as the cub scouts. Come down to Harris and find out how you can help take Field Museum materials out to those who need them!

Help us take the Field Museum to the streets!

MINUTES FROM THIS MONTH'S KAFFEEKLATSCH

This month's Kaffeeklatsch meeting mainly addressed questions from the Botany department:

1. Since the main entrance to the Museum is now primarily the South Entrance, should the Totem Pole be moved to face south? This suggestion has been taken to VP Docket and to Administrative Docket.
2. When are we going to receive 20% off at Corner Bakery? This benefit will not occur due to the fact that 10% was negotiated in the contract between Corner Bakery and the Museum. Keep in mind that Corner Bakery was brought here for our visitors to enjoy while exploring our Exhibits.
3. Could we put up signs designating where visitors are allowed to eat/drink? This suggestion has been taken to VP Docket and Administrative Docket.

Marilyn Martinson, Director of HR, discussed plans for renovating the restrooms located outside the Security Console/First Aid area. This project will begin in the fall. Marilyn also informed us that an ATM machine will be mounted at the South Door for easier access. The scheduled date that this will happen is undetermined.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE BOX

We did not have any suggestions this month.

If you have any suggestions/comments, feel free to put them in the suggestion box by the operator on the ground floor.

WELCOME!
Staff who began their employment in July

Luis Alvarez	Security Services	Security Officer I
Robert Ames	Security Services	Security Officer I
Robin Balinsky	Exhibits	Developer
Justine Barry	Museum Store	Stock Assistant
James Crumb	Housekeeping	Housekeeper I
Anamari Golf	Exhibits	Assistant Developer
Malgorzata Koscielak-Krolikowski	Exhibits	Lighting Designer
Sarah Long	Botany	MS Science III
Margaret Metz	Environmental/Conservation	Research Assistant
Jennifer Moerman	Geology	Fossil Preparator
Todd Osmundson	Botany	Research Assistant
Joseph Walsh	Scientific Technical Services	Interim Lab Manager
Dina Zissimopoulos	Education	Writer

WELCOME!
Interns who began their employment in July

Melissa Anderson	Geology	Paleobotany Intern
Luigi Cardella	Geology	Paleobotany Intern
Raquel Hoard	Membership	Intern
Marietto Jeffries	Budget	Intern
Christine Taylor	Anthropology	Intern
Jason Tugman	Museum Campus	Technical Intern

CONGRATULATIONS!
Staff who were promoted or changed positions

	From:	**To:**
Veronica Alexander	Secretary II, Development	Administrative Assistant, ECP
Deborah Bakken	Sr Collections Mgmt Assist	Sponsored Programs Coordinator
Corrienne Coughlin	Admin.Assistant, Millenium	Secretary II, Exhibits
Josef Duanah	Security Supervisor	Security Officer III
Jasen Schrock	Secretary II, Exhibits	Administrative Assistant, Finance
Laura Torres	MS Science II	MS Science III

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES!
Staff who ended employment during July

Araceli Acevedo-Valerio	Academic Affairs	Intern
Bethel Askew	Vending	Prep Cook
Jamie Berlant	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator I
Erica Blair	Zoology	Administrative Assistant
Teresa Clark-Petravick	Museum Affairs	Adminstrative Assistant, Millennium Project
Michael Conklin	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative I
Michael Crowley	Environmental/Conservation	Collections Assistant/Intern
Katherine Dvorak	Exhibits	Exhibits Preparator I
Simone Hannah	Museum Store	Sales Clerk I
Jennifer Hill	Budget	Budget Assistant
Carolyn Klyce	Administrative Services	Coordinator, Policy Manual/Board Relations
Gail Kushino	Environmental/Conservation	MS Science II - Data Entry Assistant
Gary Merrill	Environmental/Conservation	MS Science IV - IRAP
Maureen Ransom	Education	MS Education IV – Anthropology Subject Specialist
Liani Rosa	Museum Store	Sales Clerk I
David Spekoski	Geology	Paleobotany Intern
Jodi Slapcinsky	Botany	MS Science III – Collections Assistant
Elizabeth Sneed	Public Services	Administrative Assistant
David Wilkins	Security Services	Security Officer II

Farewell to Julie Thomas

Our Exhibits Director, **Julie Thomas**, is leaving us effective September 1. According to Julie, "It turns out that ol' architecture bug has bitten me again and I will be pursuing opportunities relating to my original profession." Julie thanks everyone who made her tenure here such a pleasure.

Submitted by **Laura Gates**

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!